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February 8, 2002

To: Examiner Audrey CHANG  
Group Art Unit 2872

703-308-7721

From: Mario A. CostantinoYour Ref.: 09/501,600Our Ref.: 105398

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10Prepared By: MAC/ms**Comments:**

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yousuke KOUNO

Group Art Unit: 2872

Application No.: 09/501,600

Examiner: A. Chang

Filed: February 10, 2000

Docket No.: 105398

For: OPTICAL FILTER AND OPTICAL DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED IN CPA

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Further to the Rule 53(d) CPA filed November 14, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 2, 5-7, 9 and 10 as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) An optical filter that is provided at an optical path between a photoelectric converter, which converts a subject image formed at a light-receiving surface thereof to an electrical signal, and an optical system which forms the subject image with a light flux from the subject at said photoelectric converter, to filter the light flux, comprising:
  - a plurality of filter layers that are laminated along a direction of an optical axis of the light flux that passes through the optical filter, the plurality of filter layers including at least a first filter layer and a second filter layer which are laminated with each other; and
  - a stage formed at least at a portion of an external circumference of the optical filter by varying a size of a surface of said first filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis from a size of a surface of said second filter layer along the direction